



# Fertile-Beltrami Public School



210 S. Mill Street Fertile, MN 56540-0648  
District Office (218) 945-6933 Fax: (218) 945-6934

**Brian Clarke, Superintendent**  
bclarke@isd599.org  
(218) 945-6983

**Nathaniel Messick, Principal**  
nmessick@isd599.org  
(218) 945-6953

**Chad Hitchen, AD/Dean**  
chitchen@isd599.org  
(218) 945-6953 ext. 165

August 2019

Our summer months are flying by and back to school is quickly approaching! This summer hasn't been quite as busy as last summer for school projects- our goal has been to make a few more cosmetic updates with paint, student lockers and some badly needed flooring replacement in a few areas. Everything will be ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school set for Tuesday, September 3, 2019. A big thanks to Dean, Tina, Robin, James, Rochelle, and Albert for the hard work they have put in to get everything looking great!

Looking ahead- there is a question FB will ask you to vote on in a Special Election set for November 5, 2019. The big mechanical project that took place last summer was the result of a Board approved Health and Safety project to address the outdated heating systems, asbestos removal, and lighting upgrades. We were able to go out for bid on these projects in early February 2018, which resulted in very competitive bids from contractors- this allowed for a substantial savings and money left over from the bond totaling \$770,000!

The question we will ask you to vote on is whether the remaining dollars can be used for further improvements to the building. It's a little confusing- but essentially the board has authority to bond for approved health and safety projects, but needs voter approval to complete other projects if a loan or bond is used- which is where you come in. A **YES** vote from you will allow further projects to be completed with the remaining dollars. A **No** vote will use the \$770,000 to pay back only on the interest portion of the bond.

The State of MN confuses things more—following the question on the ballot will be a statement “By voting “yes” on this ballot question, you are voting for a property tax increase. The board bonded for this project a year ago- so a change in your taxes has already taken place, but statute requires the ballot questions to include the impact of voting “yes!” We'll hold informational meetings, generate handouts, and will be available for questions to explain the proposed projects and ballot question.

Look for information over the next few weeks to give you a little more background. In the meantime, if you have questions, or would like to see the improvements already made to our school- don't hesitate to contact me at 945-6983, [bclarke@isd599.org](mailto:bclarke@isd599.org), or stop in!

**Brian Clarke, Superintendent**  
**Fertile-Beltrami School**

*“Educating for success in an environment of learning, respect, and responsibility.”*